



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401
www.co.blm.gov



In reply refer to:
CO-5000-4100

APR 21 2011

Dear Interested Party,

SCOPING NOTICE

Gunnison Gorge Landscape Health Assessment

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Uncompahgre Field Office, is initiating the process of preparing a Landscape Health Assessment (LHA) for the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) and the surrounding area. The area is located in Delta, and Montrose Counties, on the western slope of Colorado. A similar assessment for this general area was completed in 2001. When the current LHA is complete, it will serve as a basis for an Environmental Assessment that will have, as a proposed action, the renewal of 29 grazing permits with stipulations on 41 different grazing allotments for a period of 10 years. Total acres of public land involved is approximately 109,865 acres, of which 95,633 acres is within the Gunnison Gorge NCA.

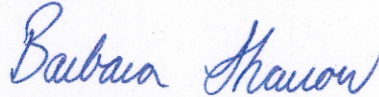
The purpose of this Notice is to invite public participation in the process and to request information and comments relating to these allotments that would assist the Bureau in completing the LHA. The Assessment will address Colorado BLM's five Standards for Rangeland Health. Briefly those Standards are: 1. Upland Soils, 2. Riparian systems, 3. Healthy native plant and animal communities, 4. Special status plant and animal species, and 5. Water quality.

During the summer of 2011, an interdisciplinary (ID) team of BLM specialists will visit lands within the LHA area and collect data pertaining to the Standards for Rangeland Health. In addition to randomly selected sites across the general landscape, a sampling of previous BLM authorized activities including easements, rights-of-ways, rangeland improvement projects, and recreation sites will be visited. The team will determine whether the land is meeting or not meeting the Standards, and make a determination of causal factors if an area is not meeting the Standards. The Gunnison Gorge Landscape LHA and the accompanying Environmental Assessment to renew grazing permits will be prepared and completed in early 2012, analysis of the data and associated renewal of grazing permits offered to the applicants in mid 2012.

If you have information that you want the BLM to consider or would like additional information about the process, please contact Lynae Rogers by May 6, 2011 at (970) 240-1068, lbroger@blm.gov, or 2465 S. Townsend Ave, Montrose CO 81401.

Following is a list of the grazing allotments and BLM acres within the subject area where data collection is scheduled for the summer of 2011. A map of the Gunnison Gorge Landscape area is attached. Analysis of that data and permit renewal is scheduled to be completed by mid 2012.

Sincerely,

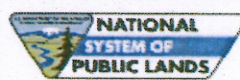
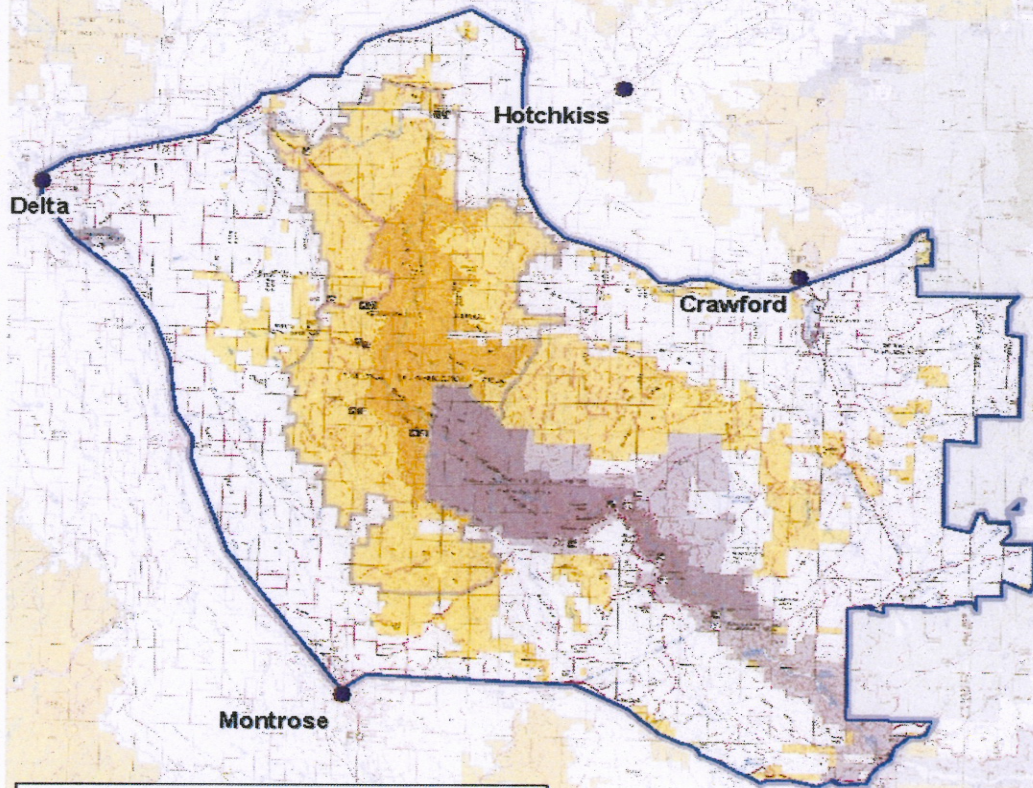
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Sharrow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" and last name "Sharrow" clearly distinguishable.

Barbara Sharrow
Uncompahgre Field Office Manager

cc. UFO Central Files

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment BLM Acres
Dead Horse Common	5010	1,117
Crawford Reservoir	5018	392
Doug Creek	5028	403
Adobe South	5030	1,611
Bostwick Park	5032	280
Poison Spring	5014	1,365
Onion Valley	5039	40
E. Gould Reservoir	5041	620
Big Pasture	5044	202
Smith Fork	5049	462
North Saddle Peak	14540	200
Selig Canal	5003	3,387
Upper Peach Valley	5007	3,727
Smith Mountain	5001	2,860
Iron Canyon	5013	1,300
Green Mountain	5017	22,398
Shamrock	5024	1,080
Dedication Site	5002	240
Brush Point	5008	18,205
Cedar Point	5012	620
Adobe	5027	300
Spring Gulch	5029	1,155
Black Canyon/ Jones Draw	5031	1,560
Pinyon Springs	5033	665
Red Canyon	5038	160
Pine Ridge	5040	80
Collins	5043	201
Black Bullet	5045	239
Allen Reservoir	5050	212
Needle Rock	14542	40
Rawhide Coffee Pot	5034	1,246
Black Ridge	5020	10,600
Sulphur Gulch	5023	468
Rabbit Gulch	5022	1,640
Grizzly Gulch	5015	1,720
Gould Reservoir	5011	2,860
Cedar Creek	5535	198
Big Gulch 40	5036	37
Big Gulch	3630	281
Middle Peach Valley	3276	9,750
Rim Rock	5051	82

Gunnison Gorge Landscape Health Assessment Area



Gunnison Gorge Landscape Health Assessment Area

— Land Health Assessment Area

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